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Intelligence Request No.1  
Control No. 2075  
20 October 1954

SUBJECT

Production and Uses of Indium

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

FOA/MDAC; 18 October 1954

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

As soon as possible, preferably before 1 December 1954

PROPOSED USE

Intelligence developed by the IWG will be used by action agencies in determining whether this commodity should be made subject to U.S. and COCOM trade controls.

BACKGROUND AND REFERENCES

Background: Referenced communications are concerned with alleged Soviet bloc attempts to procure indium in Western Europe and with known uses of indium. There are also indications that new uses for indium of a highly strategic character have been developed recently by the U.S. Air Force. Small amounts of indium will harden copper and lead alloys and increase the tensile strength; it is used in aviation-engine bearing alloys. Lead-indium alloys are highly resistant to corrosion, and are useful for chemical-processing equipment.

Reference: Paris REPTO A-257 of 9 September 1953; Paris POLTO A-19 of 9 July 1954; Paris POLTO A-90 of 12 August 1954; and TOPOL A-46 to Paris of 1 September 1954.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION DESIRED

MDAC requests an IWG intelligence study on Soviet bloc and Western European production and uses of indium. IWG/AM-15 of 12 October 1953, "IWG Commodity Analysis Checklist", or pertinent sections thereof, can serve as the outline for this proposed study. The IWG is asked to consider this MDAC request and to determine in the light of other research priorities and availability of information, the desirability of a project assignment. So far as is known, no intelligence study on

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the production and uses of indium has yet been made. Members are requested to comment on the nature and scope of this study, and on production responsibilities within IWG.

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